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In the Claims:

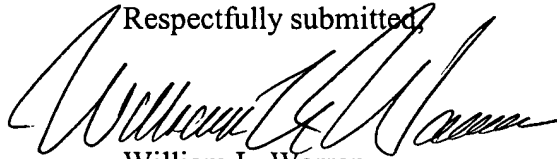
1. (Original) A compound having the general formula (I)
 $M_5(AO_4)_3X$,
wherein the group $M_5(AO_4)_3$ forms an apatite structure and X is situated in the hexagonal channels of the apatite structure and includes Cu-atoms, with the proviso that the compound is not $Sr_5(VO_4)_3(CuO)$, $Sr_5(VO_4)_3(Cu_{0.894}O_{0.952})$, or $(Sr_{0.9}Ca_{0.1})_5(Cr^VO_4)_3(CuO)$.
2. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein A represents P, V or a mixture thereof and M represents Ba, Sr, Ca or a mixture thereof.
3. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X represents a mixture of Cu^{2+} , Cu^+ , O^{2-} , OH^- , F^- , Cl^- , Br^- and/or I^- .
4. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X comprises copper ions.
5. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein X comprises Cu^{2+} .
6. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein linear units O-Cu-O are present in the hexagonal channels of the apatite structure.
7. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein X represents $Cu_xO_yH_z$, wherein $0 < x \leq 0.85$, $0 \leq z < 1$ and $0.5 < y \leq 1$.
8. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 7 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein $0.1 \leq x \leq 0.6$.
9. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein A represents P.

10. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-9~~ comprising the steps:
 - (i) mixing of compounds comprising the elements M, A and X,
 - (ii) thermal treatment of the mixture in the range of 200 to 1700°C to yield a compound of the general formula (I).
11. (Original) The process according to claim 10, wherein the thermal treatment is performed for 0.01 to 60 hours.
12. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the thermal treatment is performed when intermediate regrinding.
13. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 10 ~~any of claims 10 to 12~~, wherein the thermal treatment of the mixture is performed in air, argon or oxygen.
14. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 10 ~~any of claims 10 to 13~~, further comprising the step
 - (iii) thermal treatment of the compound obtained in step (ii) in oxygen, inert gas atmosphere or vacuum at 500 to 900°C for 0.5 to 24 hours.
15. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing a compound of claim 1 ~~according to any of claims 6 to 12~~ comprising the steps
 - (i) mixing of carbonates of M, (NH₄)H₂PO₄ and Cu-compounds,
 - (ii) thermal treatment of this mixture in solid state in air at 600 to 850°C for 1 to 5 hours,
 - (iii) regrinding,
 - (iv) thermal treatment at 1100 to 1400°C for about 1 to 24 hours,
 - (v) cooling and
 - (vi) regrinding.

16. (Currently Amended) Pigment comprising a compound of claim 1 ~~to any of claims 1 to 9~~.
17. (Original) Pigment according to claim 15, wherein X in the compound of general formula (I) comprises Cu^{2+} .
18. (Currently Amended) Use of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ as pigment, paint or as coloring additive in cements or plasters.
19. (New) Pigment comprising a compound of claim 10.
20. (New) Pigment comprising a compound of claim 15.

No new matter is presented in the priority amendments to the specification and clarifying amendments to the claims. No additional fees are believed to be due, however, should there be any fees associated with this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-5029. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William L. Warren", is written over the typed name.

William L. Warren

Reg. No. 36,714

SUTHERLAND ASBILL & BRENNAN LLP

999 Peachtree Street, NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3996

(404) 853-8000

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